

St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting

in the Barn Centre, 19:00 on Thursday 12 September 2024

MINUTES

Present: Christopher Hume (CH) - Lay Chair, Rev Paul Mundy (PM), Patsy Bailey (PB), Tony Bailey (TB), Geoff Clinton (GC), Dan Cowley (DC), Audrey Ford (AF), Kate Francis (KF), Sara Fuller (SF), Anthony Mallinson (AM), Pam Mundy (PamM), Ian Reekie (IR), Mandy Stockwell (MS), Rob Bellis (RB)(Secretary).

1. Opening Prayer:

Sara Fuller opened the meeting with a prayer that had been sent by Rev Paul Mundy.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Jeremy Burdett (JB), Linda Farmer (LF), Caroline Smith (CS) and Jonathan Fenton-Vince (JFV).

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 17 June 2024.

Acceptance moved by IR, seconded by AF, and passed unanimously and signed by PM.

4. Record of Standing Committee Meeting held on 28 August 2024.

CH referred to the Record of the Standing Committee Meeting that had been circulated as part of the papers and the following matters were on the agenda for consideration and discussion:

4.2a – Welcome to new residents to Newick

The proposal of a welcome “gift” to people new to Newick, either those moving into new housing or those moving into established houses in the village was unanimously approved.

(Action: PM)

4.2b – Youth Work, Children and Families Worker

This was covered in agenda item 6

4.3 - Drafts – ‘PCC Code of Conduct’ and ‘Considering Joining the PCC’

IR proposed the adoption of the ‘PCC Code of Conduct’ and the ‘Considering Joining the PCC’ documents, this was seconded by PM and approved unanimously.

A one-page document to encourage dialogue about serving the Church and perhaps becoming a member of the PCC was discussed. PM indicated this was to encourage people to come forward and facilitate the finding of successors to the existing PCC members as their three-year term of office concluded. A draft was tabled. DC agreed to make appropriate changes to make it appealing, particularly to the younger members of St Mary's. DC and PM will finalise this document. **(Action DC & PM)**

4.4 – Finance – Results and actions

This was covered in agenda item 11

4.5 – Church, Barn Centre and Churchyard; including Sexton's Report

This was covered in agenda item 14

5. Rector Issues and Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:

Rector Issues:

All the issues the Rector wished to raise were dealt with in the agenda.

The Chair led on **Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda from the previous meeting minutes:**

- Minute 4e Questionnaire re types of service.
The discussions are ongoing.
- Minute 4a Reordering Faculty.
This matter is progressing.
- Minute 4c Memorial Service
Date agreed 20 Oct.
- Minute 4i Tables
GC explained his wish to see small tables available for occasions, events and activities that would make good use of the space at the back of the Church. After some discussion in which TB suggested borrowing a table from the Village Hall to try it out PM proposed that four tables are purchased for use in Church (outside of regular services) or by the Youth Club and if after a fitting period (one year was mooted) these are not deemed viable (the Rector and the Verger are to take that decision) they may be sold. This was seconded by GC and approved unanimously. **(Action TB, PM, Verger)**
- Minute 4k Safeguarding celebration in service.
This matter will be carried forward to next meeting.
- Minute 4l AV team.
There is still a requirement for additional volunteers and this matter will be carried forward to next meeting.
- Minute 10 Bereavement Group
PamM indicated that further discussions were required and this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Families and Youth Work (PM, PamM)

Youth Work

- 6.1** PM spoke first about the encouragement of the attendees at the NYC and NCT meeting this week with 32 year 7 and 25 year 8+ young people. Arising from this he had three proposals:
- 1 – The purchase of two new TVs to allow the playing of Xbox games and the like.
 - 2 – To apply to PC Rose for a new snooker table (from the Proceeds of Crime Fund) and to invite PC Rose to come and speak to the young people.
 - 3 – To get Lee to come and speak to the congregation on a Sunday.
- 6.2** PM indicated that some of the NCT group this week, for the first time, initiated conversations about faith. They had previously attended Maycamp. To this end we celebrate the Encounter Group, which is starting on 24 September. This will be a 6–10-week pre-Christmas course run by Lee and Josh on a Tuesday 16:30 – 17:30 with pizza, games and discussion initiated by the young folk. This will be followed in the New Year by a Youth Alpha course and then in the third term there will be a Building Young Leaders programme.
MS noted how committed Lee is in all he does; having a very good way of speaking to young people. Everyone is very impressed with and by him. IR also made reference to Josh's growth and confidence.
- 6.3** PM noted the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme being run on behalf of the Diocese where 18 young folk are involved.
- 6.4** PM agreed that it is tricky connecting the young folk to a Church service. Worship2 was mentioned but accepted that a different format would be required to capture the young people's attention. Perhaps a shorter service (30-40 minutes) which Lee has expressed an

interest in doing. PamM asked for continuing prayers that this service may grow out of the new Encounter Group.

6.5 PamM was pleased to report there is a new adult volunteer, Nicola Main.

It was agreed this was all brilliant and important to record it correctly. PM and PamM have reviewed and edited the minute for this so that it reflects what was said in the meeting. **(Action: PM & PamM)**

Family Worker

6.6 PM indicated he had been speaking with Rob Dillingham and was disappointed to learn there are not many suitable candidates in the market. However, he will work with Rob Dillingham to create an advert. **(Action PM)**

School

6.7 PM reported that he has had good meetings with both schools in preparation for Harvest and had begun planning for Christmas. Unfortunately, relations with the School Governing Council are tense at present for a variety of reasons not recorded here and he was reviewing his position on the Governing Council. Relations with the Headteacher are fine.

Youth Choir

6.8 Cara Barseghian is planning lots of things for Harvest and Christmas.

Chailey Secondary School

6.9 PM reported that he is being asked by Tim Dudgeon to help do VLOGs for Advent, Lent and Easter. He is also being asked to help on Welfare matters.

As last year, two young people are being sent to lay wreaths at the Remembrance Day Service.

There will be a Lessons and Carol Service for the school again this year in St Mary's. It was noted that they have requested that this year's service to be more religious.

PM will prepare a report for the minutes (to tie in the Young People's work and thank you at the Wreath laying) which can also be used in the magazine and for the PGS appeal in October as well as being used to say "thank you" in November and at Christmas. **(Action: PM)**

Other matters

6.10 PM outlined his ambition to have 80% of the Electoral Roll using PGS as their method of giving. There was a discussion about the level of the ambition and how achievable it might be. It was agreed that it seemed a very ambitious and perhaps unachievable target but improving the way in which people give financially to St Mary's is important in the long run. PM and CH will be working on this in the coming weeks. **(Action: PM & CH)**

6.11 PamM confirmed that **OWLS** are continuing with 8 -10 young people attending monthly. There had been a very successful family picnic during the summer holidays with 5 families attending. She also noted that three of the mothers of Owl members had new babies and she is exploring the possibility of having a session in Church for them once a week in term time, on a Monday, for refreshment, conversation and prayer. This idea received warm approval. Pam M indicated she would be pleased if anyone else would like to support and join this group.

Proposal

6.12 PM proposed the purchase of two new televisions and a new Xbox Controller for use with the Youth Club for an anticipated cost of £500. This was seconded by GC and approved unanimously. **(Action PM)**

CH concluded that the discussions on Youth and Family work were very encouraging indeed.

7. Safeguarding (CS):

A brief email commentary had been received from CS.

PM noted thanks to CS for the excellent work she does on safeguarding and noted that she is well thought of in the Diocese.

PM reported that LF had also intimated a safeguarding matter in relation to usage of the Church where a donation is received. There being no rental agreement, as there is for the Barn Centre. PM proposed that LF be asked to amend our hiring policies re safeguarding and draft a policy for the hiring of St Mary's to an outside body. This was seconded by KF and approved unanimously. **(Action: LF)**. Thanks were expressed to LF and to Jane Von der Becke, the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's Chailey, who had highlighted this matter. It was noted that LF and Jane were working well together.

8. Churchwarden Items (SF, CH):

8.1 – PM's sabbatical - SF confirmed that arrangements are in hand for getting cover during PM's sabbatical. Bishop Will is going to host a joint service on 29th June for us and once responses from the other Clergy are in, CH and SF will work with the St Peters Churchwardens to look at a timetable between the two churches. Cover from Lay Readers and Fr Martin are also in the mix.

8.2 – The thank you supper for the Magazine team is scheduled for 30 October 2024, and invitations have gone out.

8.3 – SF has started the communications for the Xmas Tree Festival and so far we have 10 market stalls and 18 trees confirmed. TB's help in organising the layout will be needed and appreciated as this year the plan is to have more stalls within St Mary's and potentially utilise the Barn Centre for food and drinks and any food stalls.

8.4 – PM mentioned the possibility of a sail/awning to cover the patio area to make it more usable during poor weather. DC volunteered to investigate this with the organisation in Crawley. **(Action DC)**

9. Electoral Roll (MS, PM):

MS noted that there will be the renewal of Electoral Roll data in 2025 and all those on the Roll will be sent an email asking for confirmation of the information held about them. CH mentioned his email to those on the Electoral Roll regarding PGS giving and consideration will be given to combining the communications. **(Action MS & CH)**

It was noted that the parents of those in Owls had been invited to join the Electoral Roll and that consideration is being given to invite the parents of those attending Youth Club.

10. Outward Giving

The report from JB was noted. MS expressed thanks for the donation to the Chaplaincy team at Beachy Head. PM asked that the Chaplaincy team determine what night vision equipment they needed and then, if necessary, perhaps the donation from St Mary's could be added to by another organisation so that the right equipment is purchased. **(Action: MS)**

PM asked for prayers for MS and those in the Chaplaincy team. It was also hoped that MS would talk to the congregation about the work at Beachy Head. **(Action: All)**

11. Finance (IR, CH):

11.1 – Budget for 2025

CH thanked IR for all his work on MFA and in particular in relation to the preparation of the first draft of the budget for 2025. IR talked about the budgeting process and the significant additions in the Youth Work and the provision of a Contingency to give the overall budget some flexibility. Clearly this is going to mean 2025 is an ambitious year and raising the income to cope with this level of expenditure will be a challenge. CH noted that he hoped, in working with PM, reinstating the "Friends of St Mary's" and making appropriate appeals to them and generally for an increased level of giving in PGS would impact and increase the income generated.

PM Commented on the Parish Share and the Chailey contribution. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Chailey should be left to make their own Parish Share payments but that the amount paid by St Mary's might be reduced to reflect St Pater's separate payment. PM will organise a meeting with colleagues at Chailey to progress this matter. **(Action: PM)**

11.2 - Financial performance to date

CH noted that the financial performance for the first half of the year was positive and that the likely outcome for 2024 should be solid and sensible. Hopefully providing a foundation for the challenge of 2025.

PM led the thanks to IR and CH for their work on the finances and (much to the embarrassment of the Secretary) RB was thanked for his valuable input in this area. The meeting recorded its warm appreciation of the splendid contribution RB is making to the work of St Mary's and the PCC.

11.3 - Insurance (IR)

A report on insurance from IR had been included in the papers for the meeting. After a brief discussion IR proposed that the same level of cover be maintained at the same rates. This was seconded by PB and agreed unanimously.

11.4 - Bank Signatories (IR)

IR confirmed the wish to try again to change the signatories to the Santander Accounts. Robin Parris, Jeremy Burdett and Anthony Mallinson are the three current signatories. The proposal is to have CH and IR replace JB and AM.

The meeting agreed the following resolution: -

"Jeremy Burdett and Anthony Mallinson have demitted office as Church Wardens but remain active on the PCC but are no longer directly involved with the Finance function and are therefore not required to continue to act as signatories to the St Mary's Church bank accounts. The PCC therefore directs its officers to have Jeremy Burdett and Anthony Mallinson removed as signatories to and operators of the St Mary's Church, Newick Santander Account Number 90773281 Sort Code 09-01-54 and to have Christopher Hume and Ian Reekie established as signatories to and operators of the St Mary's Church, Newick Santander Account Number 90773281 Sort Code 09-01-54 as soon as possible."

The proposal was moved by Rev Paul Mundy and seconded by Geoff Clinton and agreed unanimously.

PM asked everyone to pray that this change would proceed successfully.

12. Pastoral Care (PB):

CH thanked PB for her report and invited her to highlight any matters. PB emphasised some of the difficult but rewarding interactions of the past months. Particular mention was made of the pleasure that June and Ron Perou were getting an award in recognition of their great contribution to the work of St Mary's and the community.

On the matter of whether there should be a Mental Health provision at St Mary's PM proposed that the response was "no" but that this should be an opportunity to commit to act as a good signpost to the more experienced agencies, like Southdown. This was seconded by GC and approved unanimously.

13. Sexton's Report - Fabric, Barn Centre/Church paths (TB, CH):

CH thanked TB for his excellent report. TB noted two matters.

There is a need to get a quote for a concrete base for the bench in the churchyard and also for the bench which has a commemoration plaque on it that is falling apart. It was noted that a Faculty would be required for these items. **(Action: TB)**

A lightning conductor test will be carried out by AC Wallbridge & Co Ltd on Monday 23 September. An annual test is required for insurance purposes. An upgrade to install a new system that would only require a test every four years would prove to be expensive and disruptive.

TB was thanked by all at the meeting for his diligence as Sexton.

14. Churchyard (PM, CH):

CH introduced the proposal for the “walkways” around the Church and the potential closing of the section between the Barn Centre patio and the Yew tree. After discussion PM proposed that the PCC support the investigation of alternative pathways alleviating the current risks of going round the Yew tree. This was seconded by PamM and approved unanimously. PM will ask Dr Emma Arbuthnot of the DAC to visit and advise. **(Action: TB, CH, PM)**

15. Newick Parish Magazine (PM, CH):

PM reported that there are articles in the magazine that are not paid for. The concern is that the cost of each extra sheet for printing extra pages is £100 per month. It was agreed this should be reviewed and resolved.

PM confirmed that the procedure for checking the front cover was progressing.

All agreed that it now felt very much clearer as the Newick Parish Church Magazine.

16. Declaration of Confidential Items:

There were no matters to note as confidential.

17. Any Other Business.

17.1 - Blue Christmas Service – PM will consider this, perhaps at St Peter’s. PB & MS will continue with their Thanksgiving Service.

There were no other matters of business.

18. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed at 21.36 with a prayer led by PM and the saying of the Grace.

For Note: The date of the next PPC meeting is Monday 25 November 2024 at 4:30 pm.